

PATENT
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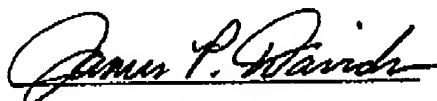
RESPONSE

In accordance with the current Office Action, claims 1-2, 13-15, and 21-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 6,369,343 to Krenz et al. in view of Japanese patent No. 60-259,319 to Inoue. Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Krenz et al. in view of Inoue, and further in view of U.S. 6,844,515 to Byrnes et al. Claims 3-12 and 17-20 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

It is appreciated that claims 3-12 and 17-20 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have amended original claim 1 to include the limitations of original claim 3 therein and amended claims 4, 6-9 and 19-20 so as to depend from amended claim 1. Claim 16 has been rewritten to include the limitations of original claim 1 and original claim 17, with claim 18 being amended so as to depend from amended claim 16. Claim 21 has been amended to include the limitations of original claim 3 therein. Claims 3, 17 and 22 have been cancelled.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants request that the examiner withdraw the rejection of all pending claims (claims 1-2, 4-16, and 18-21) and place the application in condition for allowance. Should the examiner have any questions or desire to discuss this case in more detail, he is encouraged to contact James P. Davidson, Esq. at (513) 505-0992.

Respectfully submitted,



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